



LAFAYETTE COMMISSION **ON THE** **NEEDS OF WOMEN**



DECEMBER 2010

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

2010 Commission Members

Germaine R Breaux,
President

Billi LaCombe,
President-Elect

Sharon Wright,
Treasurer

Sandra Moore,
Secretary/Liaison

Twana Benoit,
Parliamentarian

Tahanna Francis,
Historian

Lisa Leblanc,
Member at Large

Tonya Bolden-Ball,
Past President

Linda Armstrong
Marguerita Auguillard
Martha Bryant
Rose Hoffman Cormier
Paula Duncan
Amy Fuselier
Tracy Mouton
Ola Prejean

Commission's Purpose:

The purpose of the Commission, as established by Section 7-90 of the City Charter, shall be to facilitate an awareness of the status and needs of women in the city, parish and state; to provide input at the local level regarding the concerns of women in the community; to make recommendations for policies that affect the needs of women; to evaluate and improve the role of women in the community and in the state; to promote programs to meet these needs; and to serve as a clearing house for information and services available to women in the community.

President's Message:



**Germaine R. Breaux, President
2009-2010**

My, how time flies when you're enjoying yourself! I can hardly believe it has been 16 months since I was elected president of this great organization - and what an exciting time it has been! We have seen the second of three female appointments to the United States Supreme Court, the Honorable Elena Kagan, confirmed during the week of our National Conference in Washington, DC. In addition, our history as an organization was displayed during Women's History Month at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Edith Garland Dupre Library. It was a proud moment for us and our two remaining founders. The history display brought them each to tears, and me to tears of joy that we were able to inspire them once again with their brainchild.

Our partners in the community have been essential to our progress. We continue to hold the Women Leaders Social and support Faith House's Women Helping Women Luncheon. This year we were able to share the importance of women's breast health through the gracious support of the *Elaine M. Junca Women's Imaging Centre*, a partnership that we hope is just in the budding stage of a blooming relationship. Because of the continual support of the *Woman's Foundation* and *The Daily Advertiser*, we held our annual Women of Excellence awards ceremony in appreciation of the contributions women have made to Acadiana. As always, the ceremony was heart-warming and inspiring. I am enthusiastic about what the future holds for us and have been blessed with the opportunity to be in the company of such great women and families.

My predecessors have enriched the organization and set the stage for us to meet and exceed our annual and long term goals. I thank each of them for their leadership and commitment. However, as one of our 2010 WOE recipients Dr. Judith Gentry reminded us, "it is not time to rest, or sit back and relax - we have much work ahead of us." We need more women in local government, and our organization should continue to rally behind and encourage more females to run for public office, boards, and commissions. Only then will we assure ourselves a seat at the table, thereby assuring women's issues remain at the forefront of initiatives and sweeping reform that will enable us to prosper as much as our male counterparts. We need each other to foster lasting relationships and leverage our connections. To support, encourage, counsel, and direct each other to commit to the goals for which we as a group find most important. With this goal in mind, we will become what our founders have always hoped we would be - a force to be reckoned with! I thank each of you and the Acadiana community for your faith and support in me during my presidency. It was an experience I will never forget. To quote Isaiah Leggett, the Montgomery County Executive, I am always interested in what I am about to do than what I have done." Let's remain encouraged!

National Association of Commissions for Women



The National Association of Commissions for Women held their 40th annual conference and business meeting July 22-25, 2010 in our nation's Capitol. Representing the Lafayette Commission were the 2009-2010 President and our Secretary/Liasion. The NACW is rich with history, and was established as most of the local commissions. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the President's Commission on the Status of Women. Eleanor Roosevelt was the chair and Esther Peterson of the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau was vice-chair. Its 1963 report recommended that each state form a similar commission. Today there are approximately 220 state, county and local commissions for women located in the United States and its territories. These commissions are advocates for equality and justice for women and serve their communities in a variety of ways depending on the resources available. Many maintain shelters for the abused, others have tutorial programs for teens and illiterate adults, testify before their legislators on issues that impact women and their families, and disseminate information to their constituency. Each commission functions independently, but depend on NACW to provide national leadership and focus on their collective concerns. Member Commissions for Women, through NACW, keep the needs of women in the forefront of laws, policies, and practices, and promote the status of women. We were enlightened, educated, and encouraged by the Women's Leadership Conference which focused on empowering Commissions economically, strategically and most importantly as advocates for women issues. We enjoyed a wide array of speakers from Sara Manzano Diaz, the Director of the Women's Bureau of the US Department of Labor to Dr. Bernadette Loftus, of Kaiser Permanente, the list goes on and on. All dynamic and uplifting individuals. We were delighted to be briefed by Honorable Christina M. Tchen director, White House Office of Public Engagement and the Executive Director of the, White House Council on Women and Girls. The Honorable Rosa DeLauro U. S. House of Representatives, Connecticut; Honorable Donna Edwards U. S. House of Representatives, Maryland. All held on the grounds of the U. S. Capitol Visitor Center and the Old Executive Office Building, Washington D. C. Our experience with the Capitol city did not end there we were afforded the opportunity to tour D. C. and the pictures you see below is just a glimpse of our experiences. We returned inspired and motivated!





BUSY, BUSY, BUSY!
A VOLUNTEERS WORK IS NEVER DONE



March 2010

Women's History Month-beautiful display of our History at University of Louisiana at Lafayette Edith Garland Dupre Library.

April 2010

National Take Your Son/Daughter to Work Initiative



May 2010

The ABC's of Family Law! What every woman should know

Sponsored by William J. Bacque'

August 2010

"Just Us Girls"-visit to the Acadiana Youth Girls Shelter



September 2010

Women's Breast Health



Sponsored by Elaine M. Junca Women's Imaging Centre

- On Friday, Oct. 7 , 2011, The Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women in conjunction with *The Daily Advertiser* and The Woman's Foundation will host the 17th annual **Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon**. The ceremony honors women who have attained outstanding levels of achievement and whose contributions have made a significant impact on the lives of our citizens. The luncheon will be held at the *Frem F. Boustany Convention Center* Lafayette, LA

Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon 2010



The Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women, *Woman's Foundation, Inc.* and *The Daily Advertiser* were proud to sponsor this year's 16th Annual Women of Excellence Awards. The awards luncheon was held on Friday, Oct. 8, 2010 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, at the Frem F. Boustany Convention Center in Lafayette, La. For sixteen years, the Commission has honored women who have attained outstanding levels of achievement and whose contributions have made a significant impact upon the lives of our citizens. Dr. Jennifer H. Jackson, Assistant to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, President for Campus Diversity and Community Outreach, was this year's keynote speaker. Her presentation was "Women in Senior Level Positions in Louisiana" – educating attendees on the difficulties a female faces in male dominated careers and the power we exude when we are able to succeed in this arena, and encourages other women and young ladies to emulate women in non-traditional roles. Those honored were: from left seated Monica Suire Lormond, Evangelist Annie L. Matthews, Inez Boustany Karre' posthumously awarded represented by her son Albert M. Karre', Jr. Una Hargrave, Carleen Jones, Mary Henry Cormier, and Elsie Jones Azare. Standing from left The staff of Fran The Van (Melodi Matchi fava, Jackie Ware, Mary Dugas, Mary Hefner, Rhondalyn Bernard, and Terri Decuir) Judith Gentry, Ph.D., and Mary Jane Bauer accepted by Ms Julie Cuterra. Each year Ms Shann Comeaux, a local artist presents a special painting to our Founder's Award winner, to show her appreciation of the resounding contributions of the Founder's Award recipient. The winners also received the Keys to the City from Ms Carlee Alm LaBarr of the City Parish President's office.

Woman's Foundation, Inc. also presented its 9th annual Care and Concern For Women & Families Award. This honor is given annually to a non-profit organization that has dedicated itself to improving the lives of women and families in our community. This year's recipient was The Miles Perret Cancer Center of Lafayette, La. Their mission is, "to serve families in Acadiana fighting and surviving cancer with care and compassion." This mission is founded on the principle that life is sacred and quality of life should not be forgotten or neglected, particularly when battling cancer. Miles Perret Cancer Center Services exist to help anyone who has been diagnosed with cancer, any type, any age. The also recognize the far reaching impact of cancer and offer support to caregivers as well as the entire family.

Program of Excellence 2010



Northside High School—Prostart Program

The Northside High School's Prostart Culinary Arts Program was awarded the 2010 Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women's Program of Excellence Award. Prostart is a two year career-building program for high school students who are interested in the culinary arts, restaurant and food service management. During the two years students take two national certification exams, and must have completed 400 hours of industry work experience in approved restaurants, and must complete a majority of seventy work competencies. These students grow into the leaders the industry needs. Sharing in their proud moment is one of their teachers Ms Karen Martin and Mr. Burnell LeJeune, Director of Career and Technical Education.

Quotable, "Quotes" Women of Excellence Awards 2010

"This is a beautiful activity to recognize women in the community and their accomplishments! Keep it up!" 2010 attendee

"Wonderful event! Well done, an honor to participate." 2010 awardee

"Love to donate artwork every year—these women are so very special."
Shann Comeaux
Local Artist

"The meal was excellent, the keynote speaker great, very appropriate for the occasion. Atmosphere was very peaceful and enlightening!" 2010 attendee

Coming Soon

Our new strategic plan
And initiative for the
year.

Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women

P.O. Box 52082
Attn: Sandra Moore
Lafayette, LA 70505

Phone 337-291-8447

Fax 337-291-5459

E-mail

smoore@LafayetteLA.gov

We're on the Web!

lafayettela.gov/lcnw.asp

Lafayette Commission on the Needs of
Women is a member of the National
Association of Commissions for Women.



The National Association of
Commissions for Women (NACW)
is committed to equality and
justice for women
by increasing the effectiveness of
member commissions and serving
as their national voice.

Scene's from the Women of Excellence Awards Banquet 2010



The Boustany Karre' Family



Dr. Jackson, Keynote Speaker 2010



Members of the Lafayette Realty Association

LCNW Talent Bank of Women

Operating independently of any existing talent bank, the Lafayette Talent Bank of Women is designed to increase the number of women considered for and appointed to local Boards and Commissions. Serving as a registry for women interested in, and qualified to serve, on various Boards and Commissions, the talent bank will identify and recommend qualified women to Boards and Commissions in our city and parish. Any registered voter residing in Lafayette Parish is eligible to register with the Lafayette Talent Bank of Women. If you would like additional information about the Lafayette Talent Bank of Women, contact the LCNW at 337-291-8447.